THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Revised estimates 1996-97 for explicit subsidies, which are the latest figures now available, compare with the Budget estimates as follows :

(Rupees in crore)

	1996-97	
	BE	RE
Subsidies		
Foodgrains	5241	5166
Sugar	643	900
Indigenous (Urea fertilisers	4500	4743
Imported (Urea) fertilisers	1648	1350
Sale of decontrolled potassic and phosphatic fertilisers with concession to farmers	2224	1674
Other subsidies	2064	2961
Total	16320	16694

There is no subsidisation of kerosene and LPG through the Budget

[Translation]

Unemployed Youth

5109. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the increase registered figures thereof in the number of unemployed youths during the last five years in Chandigarh;

(b) the steps being taken to remove umemployment in Chandigarh, and

(c) the provision made in this regard for the next financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) As per the information collected from Ministry of Labour, the number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, who were on the live register of the employment exchange functioning in the Union Territory of Chandigarh are shown below :

Year (as at the end)	No. of job-seekers on the live register of employment exchange (in thousands)
1992	161.9
1993	161.6
1994	157.2
1995	153.2
1996	139.7

Employment Exchanges sponsor names of candidates registered with them, on the basis of vacancies notified to them by the employers.

(b) The Nehru Rozgar Yojana has been in operation in the country including Union territory of Chandigarh since 1989 with the objective of generating employment opportunities for the urban poor living below the poverty line.

(c) Tentative provision made in respect of Union Territory of Chandigarh for the financial year 1997-98 under the Yojana is Rs. 12.34 lakhs.

[English]

Smuggling of Decorative Laminates

5110. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of decorative laminates to Myanmar *via* Morah; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No such incidents have been noticed.

(b) Anti-smuggling agencies are alert to prevent and detect all types of smuggling including smuggling of decorative laminates.

Handloom Welfare Fund Scheme in Kerala

5111. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a representation from State Government of Kerala to provide exemption of Handloom Sector from the operation of ESI Scheme so as to avoid financial burden to the production units/primary societies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to take a decision to exempt Handloom Sector from the operation of ESI Scheme;

(d) if so, the time by which it will be effective; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) A Memorandum dated 27th July, 1996 was received from the Government of Kerala for grant of exemption from the ESI Act to Handloom Sector production units/primary societies. The proposal was examined by the ESI Corporation and the same was not found acceptable because it would amount to denial of comprehensive social security benefits available under the ESI Scheme to workers in such units.